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THE AUSTRALIAN Association for Cultural Freedom (freedom, that is, anywhere right of the extreme left is still sensitive about the suggestion that part of its funds came from the US Central Intelligence Agency. As the point was raised here some months ago the association asks me to put the record straight.

The association, quoting Professor McAuley's recent rationalisation of its embarrassment, insists it has experienced no kind of external manipulation.

"The organisations (presumably those subsidised) carried on their legitimate and valuable activities without awareness on the part of their members that they were partly indebted to the CIA. There was nothing to make them aware, because they were not being manipulated or subjected to pressure. In this respect the CIA showed itself commendably enlightened. . .

"In the sum the CIA made a well-intentioned blunder and places those whose independence they meant to respect in an embarrassing position. *Quadrant* (the AACF journal) will, however, continue to light its own path with such illumination as its joint editors and contributors can supply."

I am glad to give the association's energetic secretary, Richard Krygier, this shot for his square-off. As I told his colleague, Owen Harries, it had never occurred to me that their intelligent group would either need or tolerate any outside guidance.

Those who pay the piper don't always have to call the tune, especially when their favorite melody is being so faithfully relayed.

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